



# **San Jacinto River Waste Pits Superfund Site**

## **Site Update For EPA HQ**

**August 11, 2017**

# San Jacinto River Waste Pits Map





# Site History

- 1960s: Paper mill waste disposal.
- 2005: State discovers waste pits.
- 2008: EPA adds Site to the NPL.
- 2009: EPA issues Order to McGinnis and International Paper to conduct RI/FS.
- 2010: EPA & McGinnis & International Paper sign Consent Order to construct a temporary cap.
- 2011: Temporary cap completed.
- 2012: Cap repair.
- 2013 Cap repair.
- 2014: PRPs submit initial draft FS. EPA asks USACE input.



# Site History

- 2015: EPA dive team discovers 20 foot gap in the temporary cap; dioxin exposed. PRP's ordered to repair the cap. Intense media interest.
- 2016:
  - Another cap repair needed, inspection protocols updated.
  - 8 foot deep scour found near cap.
  - EPA assumed authorship of the FS.
  - Remedy Review Board, HQ dioxin risk assessors, Contaminated Sediment Workgroup, ORD and OSRTI consulted on Proposed Plan.
  - R-6 issues Proposed Plan for public comment September 28.





# San Jacinto River Waste Pits

South  
Impoundment  
1965





# Northern Waste Pits Before Cap





# North Waste Pits After Cap



Approximate Limit of Armored Cap

Cap Construction Completed July 12, 2011





# Remedial Action Objectives

- Prevent releases from the former waste impoundments.
- Reduce human exposure from consumption of fish.
- Reduce human exposure from contact with contaminated materials.
- Reduce exposures of aquatic animals (clams, crabs, etc.).



# Other Alternatives Considered

- ⊘ No further action.
- ⊘ Institutional controls.
- ⊘ Upgraded caps.
- ⊘ Partial Solidification/Stabilization.
- ⊘ Partial removal alternatives.



None are Reliable for all Storm Events



# Preferred Alternative

## Northern Waste Pits

- Remove 152,000 cubic yards of waste for offsite disposal.
- Prevent releases during construction.
- Cover remediated areas with clean fill.
- Cost: \$87 million.





# Preferred Alternative (cont.)

## Southern Impoundment

- Remove 50,000 cubic yards of waste for offsite disposal.
- Remove/replace existing building/slab.
- Backfill with clean soil & re-establish vegetation.
- Cost: \$9.9 million.



# Preferred Alternative Rationale

- The waste is highly toxic and persistent (100s of years).
- High threat of repeated storms and constant river flow against man-made features.
- The history of armor cap maintenance.
- Avoids catastrophic release in un-controlled situation [USACE projected significant loss over 80% cap area].

# Changing River Conditions

1966



1997





# Public Comment Period

- September 29, 2016 to January 12, 2017; public meeting in October 2016.
- 7,000 written comments received – [94% in favor of removal, 3% opposed, 3% no preference] plus 48,000 petition signatures.
- Internet based comment system.
- Public updates: Feb 2017 & May 2017 fact sheets.



# Site Stakeholders

- San Jacinto River Coalition
- Galveston Bay Foundation
- Coastal Conservation Association Texas
- San Jacinto River Fleet
- San Jacinto Citizens Against Pollution (CAP)
- Sediment Management Workgroup
- Texas Association of Business
- McGinnes [Waste Management]
- International Paper

# Site Stakeholders

- Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
- Harris County
- City of Baytown
- Port of Houston Authority
- Federal & State Trustees (NOAA, USFWS, TCEQ, TX GLO, TPWD)
- Congressional – Babin (TX-36); Green (TX-21); Weber (TX-14)
- USACE, USGS



# San Jacinto River Waste Pits

## Record of Decision Schedule

As of: August 2017

